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PUBLIC HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBANIAAchievements

According to Puna of 29 January 1952, a total of 157 million leks were spent during 1951 for workers' welfare purposes, including maternity care and vacations at resorts; this represented an increase of 41 million leks over 1950 expenditures. The paper stated that the amount to be expended in 1952 for these purposes is 72,500,000 leks, a 20-million-lek increase over the 1951 figure.(1)

Zeri i Popullit reported on 13 March 1952 that the public health workers in Durrës had mobilized to campaign for polyvaccine against typhoid and cholera. The vaccine came from the USSR and was of good quality, the paper added.(2)

On 9 March, Zeri i Popullit reported that in the latter part of February, the Red Cross sent several brigades to Vortop, Roshnik, and Hajderbeanë lokalitets in Berat Rreth, to campaign against habits which are prejudicial to the public health. The brigade which went to the Dërdhe No 1 village of Roshnik, the paper continued, found a girl who had been very ill for 20 days. Her parents had not sent for a doctor, but relied on the amulet of a Moslem priest. The brigade intervened at once and gave the girl medication. The girl asked the brigade for a book on hygiene, while the father, seeing the improvement in the girl's health, thanked the brigade members. The brigade gave talks on hygiene in all the villages, and for this, the paper continued, the villagers were extremely grateful.(3)

According to Zeri i Popullit of 13 May, measures were taken against malaria in Berat Rreth and in Stalin City. In Orizë village and in Stalin City, 91,591 square meters of inhabited area were sprayed with R.F. 25 dual solution. In the city of Berat, the paper continued, 19,960 meters of canals were cleaned of malarial larvae. In the planting lands of the city, the water was sprayed with DDT.(4)

On 10 May, Zeri i Popullit stated that highlanders of Tropoje had suffered from various diseases in previous times. This whole area had had only one ambulance man. According to the paper, today, there is a rural hospital in Kolgecaj

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with one doctor, an ambulance man, and other necessary personnel. Also, six ambulances are operating in the villages, and there are three children's nurses and several health officials. The paper declared that science had intervened in the highlands to limit the incidence of disease had healed thousands of patients, and had put an end to primitive treatments given by backward, irresponsible persons.(5)

According to another Zeri i Popullit report, Dr Fejzi Hoxha, speaking before a meeting of the Albanian-Soviet Friendship Society on 26 May, asserted that the application of Soviet medical methods in the Tirana hospital made possible a number of operations which had never before been performed in Albania. He said, the article continued, that many illnesses which had been considered incurable were now cured in a very short time and with a low death rate, by means of Soviet treatments. He felt, the paper stated, that it was not enough for Albanian doctors to apply two or even 12 new methods, but that they should keep in continuous contact with Soviet medical literature to broaden their theoretical basis through new Soviet concepts.(6)

On 29 November, Uchitel'skaya Gazeta reported the opening in Albania of a new higher educational institute, a medical institute, which was to have eight departments, including biology, histology, physics, chemistry, and Marxism-Leninism. According to the paper, there were to be laboratories for anatomy, analytical chemistry, physics, and others. In the first course 50 students were enrolled. Soviet specialists were of great aid in the organization of the institute, the paper added.(7)

Complaints

On 14 March 1952, a letter from E. Tefiku, appearing in Zeri i Popullit, stated that early in March a poor villager named Hasimi, from Novesele in Erseke Rreth, was ill and asked the doctor to visit him at his house. Mihal Caushi, the doctor of the rreth, went to the villager's home, as ordered by the public health section. After he had finished the visit and given two hypodermics, the letter continued, the doctor said that the bill would be 2,600 leks.(8)

A letter written by Misto Gjoka from the NMSH Baker-Rubig [copper mines], appearing in Zeri i Popullit on 11 May 1952, described poor service at the local hospital. According to Gjoka, orderlies never made the rounds at night and the patients complained of the hospital beds, but no action was taken on either of these two counts.

In the same issue of Zeri i Popullit Sadik Bilaj complained of conditions at the dispensary of Dhemblan village in Tepelene Rreth, where Hasan Musaj was working as an orderly. Not only was the site unsanitary, but the orderly did not keep himself clean, Bilaj declared. First aid was not administered by the orderly. Patients with high temperatures, for example, did not receive any attention. This situation was called to the attention of the lokalitet people's council, but with no results, Bilaj concluded.

The same paper stated that medical care was not given in time at the Vlore state hospital. An example was given of a patient who was to receive an immediate injection upon a doctor's order. The patient did not receive the injection for his heart until nightfall, and only after he had insisted on it. Also, a sample of his blood was to be taken for a Wassermann test, but it was done only upon his discharge from the hospital. Treatment as prescribed by the doctor was not given him in this hospital, the article concluded.(9)

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In an article entitled "Statistical Study of the Echinococcus Disease in Humans and Animals," in the Bulletin i Institutit te Shkencave (Bulletin of the Institute of Sciences), Doctors Frederik Shiroka and Masar Dervishi reported on the incidence of this disease. According to the article, 1,747 head of cattle, 3,863 sheep, and 2,629 goats were used to determine the percentage of the disease among animals.

The following table indicates the extent of the disease in human beings and animals in Albania, and the organs of the body affected (in percent).

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percent of Total Affected</u>	<u>Liver</u>	<u>Lung</u>	<u>Spleen</u>	<u>Kidney</u>	<u>Muscles</u>
Humans	.0003	62.80	25.00	3.00	.50	4.00
Cattle	86.00	80.30	77.30	3.40	.48	.73
Sheep	64.00	61.30	49.40	2.40	.25	--
Goats	3.400	3.40	3.40	--	6.00	.08

These figures indicate that Albanian animals are seriously infected with echinococcus cysticus, Doctors Shiroka and Dervishi concluded. (10)

SOURCES

1. Tirana, Puna, 29 Jan 52
2. Tirana, Zeri i Popullit, 13 Mar 52
3. Ibid., 9 Mar 52
4. Ibid., 13 May 52
5. Ibid., 10 May 52
6. Ibid., 28 May 52
7. Moscow, Uchitel'skaya Gazeta, 29 Nov 52
8. Tirana, Zeri i Popullit, 14 Mar 52
9. Ibid., 11 May 52
10. Tirana, Bulletin i Institutit te Shkencave, 1951

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